

# NEWS RELEASE

---

## Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

### DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCE 'OPERATION HARD HAT'

MONTGOMERY — New laser speed detection devices soon will enhance speed limit enforcement on Interstate 20 and in other construction zones throughout Alabama. State troopers dressed in work clothes and wearing hard hats and safety vests will operate the new devices, working with uniformed troopers in marked patrol units to apprehend and cite speeding motorists.

“Construction zone safety is critical to DOT’s comprehensive safety programs and efforts,” said Joe McInnes, Transportation director of Alabama. “We welcome this opportunity to strengthen our partnership with Col. Coppage and DPS as we all strive to make every traveler aware of hazardous conditions and the need to obey the law. Operation Hard Hat has DOT’s total support.”

The stationary speed detection devices can be hand-held or mounted on tripods to resemble survey equipment. Once the trooper operating the device records a speed violation, he will radio the vehicle’s description to a trooper in a patrol vehicle who will make the traffic stop.

“This new enforcement effort will help further our goal of ensuring the safety of construction workers and motorists traveling through road construction sites,” said Col. W.M. Coppage, Department of Public Safety director. “Motorists traveling through construction zones should be on notice that, although they may not see a trooper, we are closely monitoring compliance with the speed limit laws.”

Coppage said Public Safety appreciates the opportunity to continue working with ALDOT, utilizing the latest technology to promote construction zone safety. A \$30,000 grant from Transportation will fund the purchase of approximately nine of the new devices. ALDOT routinely funds extra-duty patrols in construction zones throughout the state.

July 9, 2003



---

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>